(c) Disciplinary proceedings against 9 officials have been initiated and 15 officials including two Gazetted Officers have been given warning.

Overacharing by PCOs

1437. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that PCOs in Delhi charge Rs. 2/- per call instead of Rs. 1.50 p allowed by the Department;

(b) whether any checking has been done so far; and

(c) if so, whether any action has been taken against those PCO's who overcharge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

Reduction of rental and registration fee for rural telephone subscribers

1438. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has reduced the registration fee as well as rentals for rural telephones subscribers;

(b) if so, the details of reduction; and

(c) whether similar reduction is contemplated to be allowed for urban subscribers also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Due to redefinition of local area with effect from 15.8.98 (which gave certain advantages to consumers), there was however, a consequential increase in rental and registration charges in case of some subscribers from a lower slab to a higher slab. As it resulted in financial burden on rural subscribers, it has been decided to restore the rentals and registration charges as applicable prior to 15.8.98 in respect of rural subscribers only.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Priorities laid down for utilisation of funds raised through Resurgent India Bonds

1439. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the position regarding utilisation of funds mobilised under Resurgent India Bonds (RIB) Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof as per guidelines laid down;

(c) what are observations of the Standing Committee on Finance in the matter; and

(d) the details of reaction of Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) While giving approval for exchange rist guarantee for Resurgent India Bonds. it was stipulated that 40% of the total rupee equivalent of the resources raised shall be invested by the State Bank of India in Government securities and the remaining amount will be utilised substantially for supporting the financial needs of the Infrastructure Sector. This will be reviewed once in a year.

(c) and (d) This matter has not been referred to or considered by the Standing Committee on Finance.

Review of performance of Oleopine Resin, Turpentine and Camphor industry

1440. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: